32. uContlseative Committee for the Ministry of Welfare Names of 29 Members of Parliament who are not serving on any Consultative Committee are indicated below :—

Sl. No.	Name of Members	Sl. No.	Name of Members
1.	Shri M L Fotedar	2.	Shri Ashok Gehlot
3.	Shri Chinta Mohan	4.	Smt. D. K. Tharadevi
5.	Shri D ilbir Singh	6.	Shri M.O.H. Farook
7.	Km. Mamta Banerjee	8.	Sh. Mullappally Ramachandran
9.	Shri P. J. Kurien	10.	Shri Shantaram Potdukhe
11.	Km. Girija Vyas	12.	Smt. K. Kamala Kumari
13.	Shri S.B. Nayamagouda	14.	Shri S Vijayaramaraju
15.	Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhari	16.	Shri Chandrasekhar
17.	Shri V.P. Singh	18.	Shri Ajit Singh
19.	Shri Kanshi Ram	20.	Shri Rajesh Khanna
21.	Shri Buta Singh	22.	Shri P. Chidambaram
23.	Shri A.S. Chowdhri	24.	Shri Vizol
25.	Shri Sushil Kumar	26.	Shri Mool Chand Meena
27.	Shri Narendra Pradhan	28.	Shri Madhavrao Scindia
29.	Shri Madhavsinh Solanki		

Setting up of Mini Steel Plants

2231. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of entrepreneurs have come forward to set up mini steel plants to augment steel production;

(b) if so, the number of applications which have been submitted to the financial agencies for term loans during the last two years; and

(c) the number of proposals which have been cleared and the reasons for delay in approving the other proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Under the new Industrial Policy 'iron and steel' has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and also exempted from the provisions of Compulsory licensing except for certain restricted locations. Entrepreneurs who wish to set up industrial projects which are exempted from the provisions of compulsory licensing are only required to file an Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memorandum (IEM) with the Central Government. While a large number of entrepreneurs have filed IEMs for setting up mini steel plants it is not known at this stage as to how many of the projects will finally be implemented.

(b) and (c) As reported by the All India financial institutions, 12 applications were received by them during the last 2 years for financial assistance for setting up mini steel projects. Of these, financial assistance has been sanctioned to 9 projects, while two proposals have been treated as closed due to various reasons such as inability of the promoters to raise the required funds, market prospects, uneconomic size, etc. In respect of the remaining proposal, necessary information has not been furnished by the applicant.

Losses suffered by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

2232. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is running in huge losses;

(b) if so, what are the losses for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what are the reasons for the losses; and

(d) what steps are being taken to make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The financial year 1990-91 was the first year of the operation of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Following are the losses suffered by the Steel Plant during 1990-91 and 1991-92 :—

Year	Net loss
	(Rs. in crores)
1990-91	477.55
1991-92	986.93

(c) The losses were mainly due to the fact that the production units commissioned during the last two years are in the process of stabilisation which resulted in low capacity utilisation coupled with high incidence of capital related charges viz. depreciation and interest.

(d) Government is considering various options to restructure the capital base of the company so as to ensure its long term viability.

लोहे पर नियंत्रण हटाया जाना

2233. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या लोहे पर सभी प्रकार के प्रतिबंध हटा लिये गये हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और उपभोक्ता बाजार पर उसका क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय राज्य के मंत्री (श्री संतोष मोहन देव) : : (क) "लोहा और इस्पात उद्योग" को सरकारी क्षेत्र के लिये आरक्षित उद्योगों की सूची से निकाल दिया गया है तथा स्थान स्थिति संबंधी कुछ प्रतिबंधों को छोड़कर इसे अनिवार्य लाइसेंसिंग के प्रावधानों से भी छूट दे दी गई है। लोह और इस्पात के मूल्य निर्धारण तथा वितरण का नियंत्रण भी समाप्त कर दिया गया है तथापि, रक्षा, रेलवे इंजीनियरी माल के निर्यातकों, लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र और उत्तर पूर्वी क्षेत्र को सप्लाई के लिये वितरण में प्राथमिकता दी जाती रहेगी। लोहे और इस्पात की सभी मदों के आयात करने की भी अनुमति है ।

(ख) आशा है कि इन उपायों से निजी क्षेत्र में अतिरिक्त उत्पादन क्षमता सृजित करने में प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा और लोहा तथा इस्पात उद्योग अधिक प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक होगा और इससे उपभोक्ताओं को लाभ होगा ।